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Amembassy WARSAW IMMEDIATE

INFO: Amconsul HONG KONG, Amembassy TAIPEI,

STATE Amembassy MOSCOW

TOSEC 45EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM GREEN

SUBJ: Contact with Communist

REF: (A) Warsaw 3706

(E) Warsaw 3707

(C) US Nato 5555

(D) State 201960

1. At noon briefing today Department spokesman will also take "no comment at present" position if asked. (We are concerned that phrase "nothing significant developed" might imply initiative and rebuff.) However, questions are already being asked and we feel that if as is likely press interest develops strongly here it would be difficult for Department to continue maintain complete silence. Speculation might build up which would be unhelpful. Also feel that there would be merit in revealing sufficient facts to

EXDIS REVIEW

Cat. A - Caption removed; transferred to O/FADRC
Cat. B - Transferred to O/FADRC with additional access controlled by S/S
Cat. C - Caption and custody retained by S/S

Reviewed by: Elijah Kelly Jr.Date: 4-27-89 19

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20708

APPROVED BY:

EA - Marshall Green

CLEARANCES:

S/S - Mr. Brewster

P - Mr. Bartch (substance)

WH - Mr. Grant (substance)

P - Mr. McGurn

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show that Administration is quietly maintaining posture of wishing to re-open contact.

2. Therefore suggest for your comment and Ambassador Stoessel's following guidance for Department's noon briefing tomorrow to be used only if question is raised.

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XCHN:

Q. We have a report from Warsaw that Ambassador
Stoessel met with Chinese Charge ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ December 3.
Can you confirm
this?

A. Ambassador Stoessel did not meet with the Chinese Charge. We understand, however, that he did exchange a few words with the Charge's interpreter when our Ambassador and the Chinese left a Yugoslav reception last night at the same time.

Q. On whose initiative was this exchange?

A. I understand that Ambassador Stoessel initiated the exchange.

Q. Was this his first official contact with the Chinese?

A. This is the first time, I believe, that he has spoken to any of the Chinese Embassy staff since his arrival in Warsaw.

Q. Did you convey any special message to the Chinese?

A. Well, I can't be exact about the exchange. It was a very brief encounter, and it was with the Charge's aide, not the

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Charge. They were leaving the reception at the same time and Ambassador Stoessel took the opportunity of their being together to greet him.

Q. Did he propose a resumption of the formal Warsaw meetings?

A. Our desire to resume these meetings is already well known to the Chinese.

Q. Secretary Rogers said in Canberra last August and has repeated publicly since then that we would be approaching the Chinese about resumption of the talks. Was this the approach?

A. Ambassador Stoessel's exchange was consistent with this Government's well-known interest ⁱⁿ encouraging communication with the Chinese, of course. But, as I have said, this was a fortuitous encounter and a very brief one. I don't think there is much else useful I can add.

~~XXXX~~ GP-2

End.

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